The Consequences of Deception

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This book will describe real events from the life of one family. However, they concern every person who lives on the planet Earth, because the consequences that befall a person in life, largely depend on every word or deed he said, and invisible forces act through people.

Since ancient times, people have known that all sins, acts, and diseases are inherited. They knew that for the family to be happy, they should bless their children. They also knew that if someone cursed the family, this curse is transmitted further down the family line. Therefore, the son who was born first in the family knew that his life depended on how the father will act towards him.

If the son is obedient, the father will bless him, and his life will depend on the blessing that the father will give. If the son is disobedient, the father could curse him, and this curse will pass from generation to generation.

Many years ago, in ancient times, there lived a family. Only one son was born in that family, whom his father named Isaac. He was very glad that it was a son that was born to him since the son becomes his successor.

As the time went by very quickly, Isaac grew up, and the father decided that it was time for his son to start his own family. That is, the father decided to marry his son so that there would be a continuation of their family. In those days, the father chose his son's wife, and he had to live with the girl whom the father considered would be a good wife for him.

The time has come, and the wedding took place. Isaac fell in love with his wife because she was very beautiful. But many years passed, and his wife did not give birth to children. The husband began to ask God to send them children.

In ancient times, if a woman did not give birth to children, it was considered a great shame for people. Therefore, Isaac prayed to God for children, since his father, when he blessed him, he said that from him a multitude of people would come.

And God answered his prayer - Rebekah became pregnant. One day she decided to talk to God. She asked Him what was going on in her stomach? Children are fighting. God answered her: “Two tribes in your belly and two different peoples will come from your womb; one nation will become stronger than the other, and the larger will serve the smaller.”

The time came, and Rebekah gave birth to two sons. The first child came out all red and hairy. They named him Esau. The second boy was born light and smooth. They named him Jacob.

The children have grown up. Esau became a man of the fields; he was a dexterous hunter and hunted the wild beasts and game. The father loved Esau because he really liked the food which the son prepared from the game.

Jacob was a homebody. His mother loved him very much. It so happened that the father loved his firstborn, Esau, more. The mother loved the youngest, Jacob. One day,

Esau came from the field very tired and very hungry because he did not kill a single animal. Jacob sat and ate what his mother had prepared for him with lentils.

Esau said to his brother, "Give me something to eat, I'm very hungry." Jacob said, "All right, I'll give you something to eat, only sell me your birthright." Esau thought, "What good is the birthright to me when I'm dying of hunger." He says to his brother: "I agree, just give me something to eat."

Jacob gave him food. Esau ate and left. He did not die, he remained alive, but he lost his birthright.

Chapter 2

TIME TO BLESS

At the time when these events took place, there were not so many people on earth, and not much of the earth was yet inhabited.

The meadows and valleys were very beautiful, various herbs and flowers grew on them. Many trees brought rich harvests of all kinds of fruits. Vines curled and all kinds of shrubs grew, which also gave very tasty berries.

Of course, all these fruits were natural and very tasty, so people ate good food and were healthy. After all, there were no polluting factories, there were no cars, there were no telephones, there were not even horse carts.

People had whole herds of all kinds of domestic animals: there were camels, oxen, sheep, cows, and donkeys and camels were used to travel around the country and carry any goods to any distance.

From their herds, people consumed milk, cottage cheese, cheese, and all that could be prepared from what the earth produced. To maintain a large farm, workers were needed. To do this, the owners bought slaves. They worked for clothing them and food. At that time, there were no shoes. All the people were barefoot, as there was no winter.

Time passed quickly; Isaac and Rebekah grew old, and the sons grew up, reached the age when they were to start their own families. At that time, children lived with their parents and took care of them until their death.

Esau, the firstborn of Isaac, had already started his family. He took a wife for himself from the people of the Canaanites. This nation was cursed by their grandfather because of the disobedience of his son.

Rebekah was unhappy with her son's choice. Every mother wishes her child a good friend of life. But since she did not love this son, she didn't object to his choice. She gave birth to Esau and Jacob at an old age; and by the time they grew up, their parents were already very old. Isaac could no longer see; he lost his sight. There were no doctors at that time, so, of course, there could be no treatment.

One day, when Isaac realized that it was time for him to leave this earth, he decided that it was time for him to bless his children. He did not know, how long God would have him to live on this earth, so he decided to fulfill his fatherly duty to his sons and give them the last instruction.

He called his beloved son Esau and said to him, “Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now take your tools, your quiver and your bow, go into the field, and catch me some game, and prepare for me food that I love, and bring me food so that my soul will bless you before I die.

Chapter 3

JACOB’S DECEPTION

Esau's name means "hairy" in Hebrew.

After Esau went to the hunting field to fulfill his father's request, Rebekah, the mother of Esau and Jacob, hearing her husband's conversation with her eldest son, decided to intervene and take the father's blessing for her beloved son.

She sends Jacob to fetch a young lamb to prepare a meal that his father loved. Rebekah says to Jacob: "I will cook, and you will take it to your father to eat and bless you."

The meaning of the name Jacob is “one who takes his place by cunning.”

Jacob says to his mother: “I have no hair on my body and my brother is hairy. What if my father will touch me, and then instead of a blessing, I will receive a curse.” The mother says: “Your curse be upon me. Go and do as I say."

Jacob went to the flock, caught the lamb, and brought it to his mother. Rebekah prepared the meal. Then she took the skin of the lamb and wrapped it around her son's arms and neck. Then she takes Esau's clothes and puts them on Jacob, because they smelled like the wilderness. She gives him a dish of food and sends him to his father.

Jacob goes and says, "Father, get up and eat so that your soul will bless me." Father says: "Who are you?" “I am your son Esau, your firstborn.”

FIRST DECEPTION: "I have prepared food so that your soul will bless me."

The father says: “Somehow you came back from the field very quickly.” Jacob replies: "Your God has sent me game, and I have prepared a dish that you love."

The father didn't believe him at first. Although he did not see, he could not confuse the voices of his children. He says, "Come, I will feel you." Jacob approached, and his father felt his hands and the thick wool of the lamb, smelled the smell of the field from his clothes. Continuing to doubt, he says: “The voice of Jacob, but the clothes and hairy hands are Esau, and from the clothes the smell of the fields that the Lord blessed.”

Isaac ate and did not understand who was actually standing in front of him. And he began to bless his son: “May God give you from the dew of heaven and from the fatness of the fields of the earth, and plenty of bread and wine. May the nations serve you, and may the peoples worship you; you shall be lord over your brothers and may your mother's sons worship you; those who curse you are cursed; those who bless you are blessed!”

Thus Jacob received his father's blessing.

Jacob left his father rejoicing because with a plate of lentils he bought the birthright and fraudulently received his father's blessing.

Later in his life, the consequences of his first deceit can be seen, and many times he will be deceived himself.

Why did Jacob agree to the deception? Because the spirit of lies has already passed from generation to generation. Isaac deceived King Abimelech by saying that his wife was his sister. The king saw that she was very beautiful and took her as his wife. God had to intervene to keep Isaac from losing his wife. And now he has been deceived.

Jacob, having received the blessing, and being satisfied, left his father. At this time, Esau returned from the field, prepared the food that his father commanded him, and went to him to receive the blessing. He had already forgotten that he had sold his birthright to his younger brother.

Going to him, he says: "Get up, father, eat so that your soul will bless me." Father says: "Who are you?" “I am your son Esau.” Isaac recognized his son's voice and was greatly frightened. He says: “And who has already come to me and brought food, and I ate, and blessed him? He will be blessed. I made him above all."

Esau realized that it was Jacob and wept. He said, "He took the birthright from me, and now the blessing." However, Esau himself sold his birthright for nothing more than food; then he didn’t think about such grave consequences because of this.

Esau raised a loud and bitter cry, and said to his father, “My father! bless me too. What, do you have only one blessing?”

Isaac felt sorry for his beloved son. He says, “Behold, from the fatness of the earth shall thy dwelling be, and from the dew of heaven above; and you will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother; the time will come when you will resist and cast off his yoke from your neck.”

And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing that his father had blessed him with; and Esau said, “The days of mourning for my father are drawing to an end; and I will kill Jacob my brother.” And they told Rebekah the words of Esau. She called Jacob and said, “Behold, Esau your brother is threatening to kill you. Now listen to me, my son, run to Laban."

The meaning of the name Laban is white. “Run to my brother in Haran. Stay there until your brother's rage subsides. When everything calms down, I will send after you and take you back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?

Rebekah went to her husband and said, "I don't want Jacob to take a wife from the daughters of the Hittites." Isaac called his son and said: "Go to the land of the East, to your mother's brother, and live there, and take a wife from your mother's family." The father again blesses his youngest son on the road and says to him: “The Lord will protect you throughout your life and bless your family, from which many princes and kings will be born. And many people will come from you. And may God give you the blessing of Abraham (your grandfather) to you and your offspring with you, so that you may inherit the land of your wanderings, which God gave to Abraham.” After Jacob listened to his father's instructions and received his blessing, he had to run away from his home so that he would not be killed by his older brother.

An interesting situation is repeated. Cain, the firstborn of Adam and Eve, killed his younger brother Abel because he was better than him. This is where everything comes from. **THE SPIRIT OF MURDER, THE SPIRIT OF DECEPTION** is transmitted from generation to generation.

In the same family, Esau is going to kill Jacob because he received his father's blessing. Isaac himself does not even suspecting what is really going on in his family. He allocates gifts for relatives and slaves who should serve and protect Jacob in his later life.

Chapter 4

THE ESCAPE

Esau heard that women from the nations of Canaanites were disliked by his mother and father and decided to correct his mistake. He went to Ishmael, who was the son of Abraham, his grandfather, from Hagar, Sarah's maid. Thus, Esau wanted to somehow please his mother and father.

While Esau was not at home, Jacob decided to run away. He was going on a long journey, not knowing what he would meet on his life path.

Jacob loaded the camels, said goodbye to his parents, to his younger brothers and sisters, and with his little caravan left his home, going to his mother's homeland, to Haran.

The fields of his father, which he knew so well from childhood, were left behind. Now he was walking in unfamiliar places; valleys alternated with desert sands and oases, where everything bloomed and was green. Such beauty pleased the eye, but the heart of Jacob did not rejoice, because he parted from his family and home.

He was afraid to say goodbye to his elder brother; Esau's anger was so great that he was ready to kill him.

Jacob and his caravan traveled a day's journey through the valleys and hills, and when the sun had already set, they made a stop and settled down for the night. Jacob picked up one stone in the place where they decided to rest, put it under his head and went to bed. The servants fed their animals and, after building a fire, also went to bed. They slept in turns, as they had to guard their camp. There were many wild animals there, as well as robbers who robbed travelers.

While he was sleeping, Jacob saw a ladder that stood on the ground, and its top touched the sky. And behold, the angels of God ascend and descended upon it. The Lord stands on it and says: “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are now laying, I will give to you and your offspring.

And your offspring will be like the sand of the earth; and spread to the sea, and to the east, and to the north, and towards noon; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth will be blessed.

And behold, I am with you; and I will keep you wherever you go; and I will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have told you.” Jacob awoke from his sleep and said: “Truly the Lord is present in this place; but I didn't know!" And he was afraid and said: “How terrible is this place! this is the house of God himself, this is the gate of heaven!”

And Jacob arose early in the morning and took the stone on which he had laid his head and made it an altar; and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; formerly the name of that city was Luz.

And Jacob made a vow, saying: “If God be with me, and keep me on this journey on which I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothes to put on, and I will return in peace to my father’s house, and the Lord will be my God.” : then this stone, which I set up as a monument, will be the house of God; and of all that you, O God, give me, I will give you a tenth."

And Jacob arose and went to the land of the East. However, the fear of death did not leave him, even though he ran away from home. He understood that death could overtake him unexpectedly, and then he would never be able to reconcile, or return to their home.

Cain, when God asked him where his brother Abel was, answered: “I do not know, I am not his watchman.” Then God said to him, “What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.” And then Cain realized that he could not hide his crime from the One who created him.

When he realized that he could also be killed, as he killed his brother, he was frightened and repented before God. Although he was subsequently killed in the same way as he killed his brother.

This story also traces the consequences that will befall Jacob from his DECEPTION.

Since the journey was long, Jacob had the opportunity to rejoice; he was sure that no one would kill him and that he would safely get to the place. And so, having come such a long way, he safely reached his destination.

No one attacked him during the entire journey, and he and his caravan reached the land of the sons of the East. In the fields he saw a well and three flocks of sheep laying near it; they were waiting to be given a drink. Jacob asked the shepherds: “My brothers! where are you from?"

They told him, "We are from Haran." He asked them if they knew Laban son of Nahor? They said, “Yes, we do. And here is his youngest daughter Rachel walking with her father's sheep. At that time, the children were herding their father's cattle, regardless of whether they be sons or daughters. When Jacob saw Rachel, his cousin, the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, he immediately fell in love with her, for she was very beautiful. It was love at first sight.

Jacob told his sister that he was a relative of her father, he was the son of Rebekah. She ran and told everything to her father. Laban heard that Jacob had come, his sister's son, and ran out to meet him, embraced him, kissed him, and brought him into his house.

Jacob lived in Laban's house for a month. Of course, he did not sit idly by, but worked, helping with the housework. A month later, Laban says to Jacob: “Will you really serve me as a gift, because you are my relative? Tell me what to pay you for serving me?

Laban had two daughters. The eldest was called Leah, and the youngest was Rachel. Leah was not as beautiful as Rachel, and besides, she could not see well. And Rachel was slim and pretty.

Jacob loved Rachel very much. He tells Laban, "I will work for you for seven years, just let me marry Rachel." Laban was a greedy man and immediately realized that having a servant for free for seven years is very good.

And the dowry does not need to be divided. Laban tells him: "It is better for me to marry her to you than to strangers."

He immediately came up with a plan in his mind: “if I FRAUDLY make Leah become his wife, then for the sake of Rachel he will work for another seven years, and my wealth will increase, and I will not have to share it with my daughters.” And Laban agreed. Jacob worked for him for seven years. and they seemed to him like seven days, because he loved Rachel with all his soul.

Now the time has come to get his beloved wife. He says to Laban: "Give me my wife, for the time has come for me to go into her." Laban invites relatives, neighbors, and makes a feast.

In those times, women prepared the bride for the first wedding night. Then the groom came, and they slept all night, and in the morning, they came and checked the bed. They wanted to make sure the girl was a virgin.

In the morning, when the young people got up, Jacob saw that it was not Rachel, but Leah. He says to Laban, “Why did you deceive me? I served you seven years for Rachel!

The uncle says: “We have this custom: the youngest daughter cannot marry before the eldest. Finish the wedding week with this one, then we will give you Rachel for another seven years that you will work for me.

What was Jacob to do? For the sake of his beloved, he was ready to work for another seven years, if only to get Rachel as his wife. So, for two wives, he had to work for free for 14 years.

Jacob deceived his father once. And now the retribution overtook him. It turns out – and eye for an eye. For now... but much of life is still to come. Let's follow the lives of these people and see what else will happen over the years.

Chapter 5

UNLOVED

Jacob's life did not turn out the way he dreamed. After living a week with an unloved wife, he got the one that was dear to him. Jacob became the husband of two sisters: Leah and Rachel.

The meaning of the name Rachel is “sheep.” The meaning of the name Leah is “tired”. Leah knew that Jacob did not love her, but her father did not think about it. It was important for him that both daughters were married, since he understood that he would not be able to marry his eldest daughter, Leah; her illness made her unattractive to men.

But Jacob was afraid of God, especially since he spoke to him face to face. Therefore, even though he did not love Leah, he performed his marital duty conscientiously.

As humans, we want our lives to be the way we want them to be. But God has His own plan, which He is carrying out as He intended even before the creation of this world. God saw that Jacob did not love his first wife and decided to intervene. Leah conceived and gave birth to a son and named him Reuben.

The meaning of the name Reuben is “to see.”

Leah said, “The Lord has looked upon my distress; and now my husband will love me.”

Many millennia have already passed, and women still think that if they give birth to a child for a man, he will love her. Alas! it's deep delusion. A man will never love her or her child.

Jacob loved Rachel from the very beginning and continued to love her.

After a while, Leah gave birth to another son. She said, "Lord He heard that I was not loved and gave me this son." She named him Simeon.

The meaning of the name Simeon is "hearing."

How hard it is to live with a person about whom you know that he does not love you!

Rachel had no children, she could not get pregnant, and she was grieved, however, she could not do anything, since God did not allow her to conceive.

Why did God do this to Jacob? He needed to show Jacob what it meant to be not entirely faithful and devoted to Him. After all, deceiving his father, he deceived the spirit of God. After all, in every person a particle of the spirit of life from God abides.

Therefore, to teach the wisdom and fear of God, God allows different situations in a person's life.

Jacob continued to live with both wives. And so, Leah became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She said, "Now my husband must cleave to me, for I have borne him three sons." And she named him Levi.

The meaning of the name Levi is "bound."

But alas! love cannot be obtained because of how many children you will give birth to the person to whom you got by DECEPTION.

Time passed and Leah bore Jacob a son again and named him Judah.

The meaning of the name Judah is "praise of the Lord."

She said that now I will praise God for the fact that He loves me so much that He gave me four sons. Rachel saw that she was not giving birth to children and envied her sister that she had already given birth to four sons, but she had not even one. She thought that Jacob was giving his seed to the woman he didn't love to make up for his dislike for her.

And Rachel said to her husband: "Give me children; and if not, I die." Rachel knew that Jacob loved her very much and decided to scare him, without thinking that every word is fulfilled in the life of the person who uttered it. If she knew that she herself predicted her death, she would never have uttered such terrible words. After all, she was younger than her sister, and she wanted to live happily ever after. She wanted him to think that if she left him, then he would have to live all his life with an unloved wife.

Jacob was very angry and said, "Am I God, that I have not given you the fruit of your womb?" Then Rachel said: "Here is my maid Bilhah; come in to her, let her give birth on my knees, so that I may have children from her."

It is noteworthy that here it is very clearly seen how everything actions are passed on from generation to generation.

The meaning of the name Sarah is "She is the ruler."

Sarah did not solve the issue of bareness with God. She thought that she deserved to decide everything in her life on her own. She told Abraham (meaning of the name Abraham: father of the multitude): "Come into my maid (Hagar, the meaning of the name: flight), and let her give birth to a child for me, so that I can be his mother."

It's like in our time a surrogate mother gives birth to a child for money and gives it to those who paid her for the birth. A woman does not think that a man, having slept with another woman, becomes one flesh with her, and it may happen that he loves this girl and forgets the one he seemed to love until that time.

But Rachel did not think that the maid's child would never be hers. Since the child will develop in the womb of the one who bears him, he will inherit what his mother gives him. But at that time no one thought about it, just as people do not think about it now.

Jacob obeyed his beloved and went into the maid, and she conceived and gave birth to Jacob's another son. And Rachel said, "God judged me, and heard my voice, and gave me a son." She named him Dan. The meaning of the name Dan is "God has judged."

Jacob began to live with Bilhah, considering her his wife. (Meaning of the name Bilhah: shy). Bilhah became pregnant and gave birth to another son to Jacob. And Rachel said, "I fought with my sister with a mighty struggle, and I prevailed." And she called his name Naphtali. (The meaning of the name Naphtali: fighter).

So the two sisters fought each other. Leah saw that she had stopped giving birth, and in spite for her sister, she gives Jacob her servant, Zilpah, who was given to her by her father when he married her to Jacob. (The meaning of the name Zilpah: ardent).

Zilpah also gave birth to two sons. Leah named one Gad. (The meaning of the name Gad: a happy destiny). She gave the second name Asher. (The meaning of the name Asher is captive).

After these events, Leah gave birth to a fifth son and named him Issachar. (The meaning of the name Issachar: mercenary). She gave birth to a sixth son and named him Zebulun. (The meaning of the name Zebulun is ruler). So, the unloved wife, together with her maid, gave birth to eight sons to Jacob.

And God remembered Rachel, and God heard her, and opened her womb. In the end, Rachel decided that without God she could not achieve her goal and turned to Him to help her. And then great joy overtook her!

She conceived and gave birth to a son, and said, "God has taken away my shame." And she named him Joseph. (The meaning of the name Joseph: he will have children).

Finally, Jacob received a son from his beloved wife. And of course, he loved him more than all his older sons. All the sons were already adults and understood that their father did not love their mother, and he did not love them like that, like a son from a beloved wife, although they knew how their mother turned out to be the wife of their father.

Thus, eleven sons and one daughter were born to Jacob in his house. father-in-law. It has been 20 years since Jacob came to his house.

Chapter 6

HOMECOMING

After living in Laban's house for many years, God told Jacob, "It's time to go home." But Laban did not want to part with such a hard worker. He understood that when Jacob came, God blessed his house, and Laban became very rich. If the son-in-law leaves, he will need to divide the property.

After all, Jacob has 11 children and four wives. He needs to feed them and clothe all of them. And since Laban was a cunning man, he thought to deceive Jacob.

He promised him that he would give a reward for his work for all the years of work in his house. Although Jacob agreed, he understood his father-in-law changes the promises of a reward, every time. Then God decided to intervene.

One day, God tells Jacob what to do to receive a reward for his work. Once again, Jacob says to Laban: “Separate for me from all your flocks of your sheep with specks and spots. From goats also with specks and spots, and black ones with specks and spots - this will be my reward for my work. Laban agreed.

Jacob, continued to shepherd the flocks, and began to do what God told him. When he led the herds to the watering place and the cattle conceived, he took poplar, almond and sycamore twigs.

He carved white stripes on them, removing the bark until whiteness, which is on the rods, and put the rods with cuttings in front of the cattle in the watering troughs, where the cattle came to drink.

And when they came to drink, they also conceived in front of the rods. And all cattle were born with spots, specks, and motley. And Jacob set all such lambs separately and kept his cattle separated.

And thus, he became very rich, and he had many flocks, and female slaves, and male slaves, camels, and donkeys.

At this time, we will see how our words come true.

Now the time has come, and Rachel became pregnant a second time. How happy she was to have another child! At this time, Jacob heard what the sons of Laban were talking about. “Jacob took possession of everything that our father had, and from the estate of our father he made all this wealth.”

Jacob saw that Laban's face was not as kind to him as it used to be. God says to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." And Jacob sent and called Leah and Rachel to his field and said to them: “You know that I served your father for many years. He changed my reward ten times.”

At this moment Jacob saw that his deceiving of his own father did not pass without consequences. For the first time, his father-in-law slipped him an unloved girl as his wife. Forced him to work an extra seven years.

Deceived twice already, and plus – ten times Laban changed the reward, in total it turns out 12 times. Well, that's a lot, but it's not over yet. After all, there is still a lot of life to live.

Jacob says to his wives, "The God of my fathers commanded me to return to my homeland to my father and my mother." They answer their husband: “Do what you think is right. We agree because our father regards us as strangers. For he sold us and ate even our money.

Therefore, all the wealth that God took from our father is ours and our children's. So, do whatever God has told you."

Jacob put his children and his wives on camels; and took with him all his livestock and all his wealth that he had acquired in Mesopotamia and wet out to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan.

Laban went to shear his cattle. Rachel stole the idols that her father had. Jacob stole the heart of the Aramean because he did not inform him that he was leaving. Jacob left with everything he had; And getting up, he crossed the river, and went to Mount Gilead.

Chapter 7

THE CHASE

It was not until the third day that Laban learned that Jacob had gone. Oh, how angry he was that he lost such wealth! Yes, and he didn't even say goodbye to his daughters and grandchildren.

He gathered his men and pursued them for seven days and overtook him on Mount Gilead. He decided to attack them and bring them all back. But God had a different plan for Jacob, and He intervened directly in Laban's plans.

And God came to Laban the Aramean at night in a dream and said to him: "Beware! Speak neither good nor bad to Jacob." And Laban overtook Jacob. Jacob pitched his tent on the mountain, and Laban and his kindred pitched their tents on Mount Gilead.

And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? Why did you deceive me and take away my daughters as if they were prisoners? Why did you run away in secret, and hid from me, and did not tell me? I would let you go with joy and with songs, with a tambourine and with a harp."

Laban did not like being deceived! When he himself deceived Jacob, everything was wonderful. And here again the consequences of his deceit are visible. One for one. The spirit of malice and deceit goes through the generations, not retreating even for a minute.

Laban says: "You did not even allow me to kiss my grandsons and my daughters; recklessly you did this. I have the power in my hand to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me yesterday and said: beware, do not speak good or bad to Jacob. And if you left because you impatiently wanted to be in your father's house - why did you steal my gods?"

Notice what words Jacob said. "In whoever's hands you will find your gods shall not live." A terrible word was spoken by Jacob! If he knew the consequences of his words, he would never have spoken them.

"In the presence of our relatives, find out what I have and take it for yourself." Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods of her father. At that time there was such a law: whoever had the (gods idols) of his father, all wealth passed to him.

Rachel takes revenge on her father for the injustice he did to her. She turned out to be a wise woman. How will this story end?

Laban went around Leah's tent and the two slave girls but did not find the idols. He entered Rachel's tent. She took the idols and put them under the camel saddle and sat on them. The father searched the whole tent and did not find it.

Jacob got angry and got into an argument with his father-in-law. He said: "Did you find any of your things amongst mine? Tell all relatives. I have been in your house for twenty years, for fourteen years I have served for your two daughters, and for six years for your

livestock. And you changed my reward ten times. If the God of Abraham and Isaac had not stood up for me yesterday, then you would have let me go with nothing.

Laban did not want to put up with this situation. He continued to argue and says: “Daughters are mine; grandchildren are mine; cattle are mine. Everything you see is all mine. But I can't do anything, God forbade me. Let's make an alliance now. You will never take more wives than you have. And you will never cross this hill to harm me. Also, I will never pass this hill to do you harm.”

They prepared food, ate, spent the night, and in the morning, Laban got up, kissed his daughters and grandchildren, blessed them and they parted in peace.

Chapter 8

MEETING THE BROTHER

After parting with his father-in-law, Jacob and his family calmly continued their way to their father, to their homeland. With huge herds, they moved slowly. Passing through fields, valleys, hills, and mountains covered with verdant trees, rich in herbs and flowers, Jacob rejoiced that he was returning home with wives, children and with great wealth.

However, in his heart he was afraid of meeting his own brother, so he decided to send messengers to his brother, Esau, in the land of Seir, in the region of Edom. And he ordered them to say that, behold, Jacob has lived in Laban's house until now.

I have oxen, donkeys and small cattle, male and female slaves. I sent my master Esau to announce myself, in order to win favor in your eyes.

And the messengers returned to Jacob and said: “We went to the brother your Esau; he comes to meet you, and with him four hundred men.

Jacob was really scared. He decided to divide his flocks into two camps. He thought, if his brother attacks one camp, then the second one can be saved. And in fear he turned to God: “Lord, You said: return to your homeland. I am afraid of my brother Esau, lest he come and kill me, and the mothers, and children.”

And he slept that night. In the morning he took from all that he had as a gift to Esau his brother: two hundred goats, twenty goats, two hundred sheep, twenty rams. Thirty camels with their foals, cows, ten oxen, twenty female donkeys, ten male donkeys.

He gave each flock to his servants separately and said to his servants: "Go before me and leave a distance from flock to flock." And he ordered the first: “When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, whose are you and where are you going and whose flock is before you? Then say: to thy servant Jacob; it is a gift sent to my lord Esau; behold, he himself is behind us.” Same he ordered to the rest.

He thought that he would propitiate before Esau with gifts, maybe he would accept him, and he would see his face. Gifts went ahead of him, but he remained in his camp. He got up, took his wives, and eleven children, and slaves and led all his flocks across the Jabbok stream.

And Jacob was left alone. At night, someone fought with him until dawn; and said, "Let me go." "I won't let you go until you bless me." Then he received the blessing and lifted up his eyes, he saw that brother Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. He

took two maids and their children and placed them first. Then Leah and her children. Behind them are Rachel and Joseph. He walked ahead of them.

When Jacob saw Esau, he bowed to the ground seven times before his brother. He deceived him once but bowed seven times.

And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him, and they wept. Esau saw the wives and children and said, “Who have you?” Jacob said, "Children whom God gave to your servant."

The maidservants and their children came up and bowed. Leah and her children came up and bowed. Finally, Rachel and Joseph came up and bowed. Esau says, "What is the purpose of all the multitude that I have met?" Jacob says, "This is a gift to my lord, to win his favor." Esau says, "Keep it for yourself, brother, I have a lot."

But Jacob wanted to be sure that his brother forgave him for the deceit which he committed, because of which he had to run away from his home. Esau accepted the gifts, and thus the brothers were reconciled.

Esau returned home. And Jacob went on slowly, for his flocks they were nursing, and their offspring were still small, they could not go fast.

Although a lot of time has passed, Jacob showed in this situation who is dearest to him. How hurt Leah was that even though she bore him so many children, Jacob still loved Rachel.

And Esau, although he threatened to kill his brother, finally forgave him before he even saw Jacob. And when he forgave Jacob, God blessed him, and he became a great and wealthy man. This is how God teaches his creation.

Jacob returned from Mesopotamia, arrived safely in the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, and encamped before the city. He bought part of the field in which he pitched his tent from the sons of Emmor, the father of Shechem, for a hundred coins. And he set up an altar there; and called on the name of the Lord God of Israel.

God said to Jacob, “Get up, go to Bethel, and live there; and build an altar to God who appeared to you when you fled from the presence of Esau your brother."

Interestingly, the Spirit of life, called God, constantly spoke with the man whom He created to communicate with him. Even though almost six thousand years have passed, He still speaks with man.

The only problem is that man does not recognize his Creator, and therefore has lost contact with God. But Christ came to earth to accomplish salvation and reconcile man with his Creator.

Jacob said to his house and to all who were with him: “Throw away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourself, and change your clothes. Let us rise and go to Bethel; there I will build an altar to God, who heard me in the day of my distress and was with me in the way that I walked.”

What gods was Jacob talking about? Of those that Rachel stole from her father's house. About those that a person makes of wood, gold, and silver, and which do not have the spirit of life. And men worship them and ask that a piece of wood help them in life.

It was then that Jacob learned that it was Rachel who stole the idols of her father, because everyone gave him the strange gods that were in their hands, and the earrings

that were in their ears. And all this Jacob buried under the oak tree, which is near Shechem.

Why did everyone agree to Jacob's proposal? They were convinced that only the living God is real, who created the universe and filled it with such beauty; and because they will still have to enter the land, which God Almighty has blessed.

After everyone got rid of the things they worshipped Satan with, and cleansed themselves, Jacob went from Bethel, and when there was a little distance left to Ephrathah, it was time for Rachel to give birth.

By that time, she had already given birth to one son to Jacob, Joseph. But the words that were once spoken were to be fulfilled. And so, Rachel gave birth to a son, but since the birth was very difficult, she left this world.

Before her soul left her, she named her son Benoni – “the son of my misfortune.” But his father named him Benjamin – “the son of the right hand, happiness.”

So, the words that Rachel spoke were fulfilled: “Give me children, otherwise I'll die." And Jacob told Laban that whoever you find your idols with, he will die.

This is how every word of ours comes true. Jacob lost his beloved. Although Rachel was younger than her sister Leah, she left this world before her. Jacob was left to continue living with his unloved wife. He transferred all his love to the two children from Rachel.

It's a pity that Laban made his daughters miserable. One unloved, the other sent to the next world in his youth, and her children were raised by his eldest daughter Leah. Of course, when the children grew up, they learned the entire family history. But before moving on, Jacob placed a monument over the tomb Rachel.

Chapter 9

THE COAT OF MANY COLORS

After Jacob erected a monument on the grave of his beloved wife, he went to the land of his father's wanderings, to the land of Canaan.

They pitched their tents and began to live there.

The father loved Joseph more than all his children, since he was the son of old age and the son of his beloved wife. He sewed colorful clothes for him. Joseph, being a seventeen-year-old boy, was tending cattle together with his brothers, with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. He often told his father about how badly his brothers were behaving.

And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, and hated him, and could not speak to him kindly.

God chooses Joseph just like He chose Jacob to fulfill His plans. He showed him what awaits him in life. But first He shows him a dream. Joseph had an interesting dream, and he decided to tell his brothers about it.

He gathered them all and says: “I had a dream: we stood in the field and knit sheaves in the middle of the field; and behold, my sheaf has risen, and stood straight; and behold, your sheaves stood around and bowed to my sheaf.”

And his brothers said to him: “Will you really reign over us? Will you own us?" And hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Why did God choose him? Joseph was God-fearing and obeyed God and his father, but the rest of the brothers had no fear of neither God nor their father.

God shows Joseph what will happen next. He had another dream and told it to his brothers and father. And his father scolded him, and said to him, “What is this dream? Can it be that I, and your mother, and your brothers, will come and worship you and bow to the ground?” The brothers hated him even more.

After some time, the brothers went to feed their father's cattle in Shechem. Joseph stayed at home to help his father with the housework. After a while, the father says:

“Joseph, go and see if your brothers and cattle are healthy, and bring me word".

Joseph, like an obedient child, went to look for his brothers in the field. He found them, and when his brothers saw him from a afar that he was coming towards them, they decided to kill him and then see what would happen to his dreams.

But Reuben, the oldest brother, decided to save him. He hoped that his father would forgive him for the act with which he had upset his father, knowing that his father's punishment would have very bad consequences.

So, he offers another option. He said to the brothers: “Let us not take his blood upon ourselves. Let's throw him into that well and he'll die there himself." He went to see if the herds had gone far. When Joseph approached the brothers, they immediately took him and threw him into that ditch, which was without water.

No matter how much he cried and asked them not to touch him, they undressed him and left him. Then they calmly sat down to eat what their brother had brought. At this time, they saw that a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming. These people descended from the son of Abraham from Hagar.

Here the fourth son of Leah, Judah, says: “What is the use of the fact that we kill our brother? Let's sell him into slavery." Everyone liked this idea, and they quickly pulled him out of the well and sold him for 20 pieces of silver. They were so happy that they earned two pieces of silver each and did not even think about what they would tell their father and what consequences would befall them.

Reuben returned and saw that his brother was gone, and asked: “Where is the boy? What will I tell my father? The brothers quickly figured out, took a lamb, slaughtered him, and smeared Joseph’s multi-colored coat with the blood. Then they sent these clothes to their father and said: “Look, we found this in the field. Maybe it's your son's clothes?”

Of course, the father recognized his son's clothes. He wept bitterly and no one could comfort him. Jacob thought that some beast had torn his son to pieces. He didn't even notice that the clothes were intact. And he did not think that the brothers hated Joseph and could do something with him.

Here's another lie. This is the thirteenth. If up to this point Jacob had been deceived by Laban, now his own sons are deceiving him. He did not remember how he himself deceived his father, and how he atoned for his bad deed before his brother. He continued to mourn bitterly for his beloved son.

The brothers understood what they had done, but to feared to confess to committing their crime. They knew what punishment would befall them. After all, instead of a blessing,

the father could curse them, and then their life would be very bitter, because the curse passes through the generations.

Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourned for his son for many days. The sons and daughters gathered to comfort him, but he did not want to be comforted, and said: “With sorrow I will go down to the underworld to my son.”

Jacob at that moment forgot about his son's dreams, which meant that the moment would come, and his sons, and he himself would one day bow before his beloved son. The dreams that God sends in a person's life are fulfilled. Satan also sends dreams to deceive, and thus take possession of the soul of a person, and then lead him to hell.

Throughout these stories, we observe how actions and words are fulfilled in life. Therefore, God says: as you want to be treated, so do treat other people.

In the later life of this family, we will see how Joseph’s dreams were fulfilled and what consequences befell this big family.

Chapter 10

Slavery

After the brothers sold Joseph, they realized what grief they had caused their father, but they could not confess their crimes. But they were glad that now no one would tell their father about their depraved life.

They saw their brother crying and begging not to be sold. But God had His own plan, and He had to fulfill it, so He did not interfere in the sale of Joseph into slavery. He knew that in time, their plan would be revealed. He followed Joseph's life and blessed him.

Interestingly, Joseph did not remember in that moment of the dreams that God showed him. He was still a teenager, and could not think about dreams in such circumstances as he was in.

Joseph was taken to Egypt; the Egyptian Potiphar bought him from the hands of the Ishmaelites who brought him there. The courtier of the pharaohs, the chief of the bodyguards. The Lord was with Joseph; he was successful in business, and lived in the house of his master, the Egyptian.

Potiphar saw that all the work in Joseph's hands was a success. He made him chief over all his household, except his wife. The wife saw that the young man was very handsome, and she decided to cheat on her husband.

For a long time, she kept offering Joseph to sleep with her. But Joseph was devoted to God and did not want to break His commandments. He told Potiphar's wife, “I cannot betray my master. He entrusted me with his entire house, except for you." But she decided to achieve her desire by all means possible.

One day Joseph came into the house to do the work that he was entrusted. There were no servants in the house except Potiphar's wife. So, she decided to use this moment to fulfill her desires. She grabbed Joseph by the sleeve and began to pull him in bed. Then he realized that he could not avoid the shame, and left his clothes in her hands, and he ran out into the street.

Then she decided to take revenge on him and began to shout that the slave wanted to violate her. She kept his clothes with her until her husband came home. When Potiphar came home, she told him her story to take revenge on Joseph for refusing to fulfill her desire. Potiphar believed his wife's deceit and sent Joseph to prison.

Here we see that the spirit of deceit was in control of this woman. Joseph again met with DECEPTION. But he remained devoted to God. Therefore, the spirit of malice attacked Joseph, to later run to God and slander His devoted child. Joseph withstood the battle and came out victorious, although he ended up in prison for this.

God was with Joseph there too. He turned the heart of the chief of the dungeon toward Joseph, and he saw that this young man was blessed by God and entrusted him to manage all the prisoners of the dungeon. Joseph, by the grace of the Lord, became the head of the prison. So, God was preparing him to become the ruler of a vast country.

After many years, the pharaoh sent his butler and baker to this dungeon. Somehow, they were guilty before the pharaoh, and while he investigated who is really to blame and who is innocent, he threw them into the same prison where Joseph was.

One morning, Joseph came to check that everything was in order and that all the prisoners were healthy. He saw that two people were very sad. He asked them what happened that they were so sad? The cupbearer said: "I had a dream, and there is no one to interpret it." Joseph says: "God will give the meaning of sleep, tell me your dreams."

The chief butler told Joseph his dream: “I dreamed that there was a vine in front of me; there are three branches on the vine. She grew, the color appeared on her, the grapes grew on her and ripened.

And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand. I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand."

Joseph said to him: “This is the interpretation of it: three branches are three days. In three days, Pharaoh will lift your head and bring you back to your place, and you will place Pharaoh's cup in his hand again, as was the custom when you were his cupbearer.

Remember me when you feel good; and do me a favor, and mention me to Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house. For I am stolen from the land of the Jews; and here I did nothing to throw me into prison.”

The chief baker saw that he interpreted well and said to Joseph: “I also dreamed: behold, I had three baskets on my head; the upper basket is all Pharaoh's food, the baker's produce; and the birds were pecking at it from the basket on my head.”

And Joseph answered and said, “This is the interpretation of it: three baskets are three days. In three days, Pharaoh will take off your head and hang you on a tree; and the birds will peck your flesh from you."

On the third day, Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants, and remembered the chief butler and chief baker among the servants.

The pharaoh returned the chief cupbearer to his former place, and he put the cup into the hand of the pharaoh. And he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph interpreted. And the chief butler did not remember Joseph but forgot him.

Yes, when you feel good, why remember the one who discovered what will happen to you? But here again it was God's plan. The time has not yet come for its execution. So, He continued to teach Joseph there in prison.

After two years, the pharaoh has a dream: behold, he is standing by the river. And behold, seven cows came out of the river, good in appearance and fat in flesh, and pastured among the reeds. But after them, seven other cows came out of the river, thin in appearance and thin in flesh, and stood beside those cows, on the bank of the river.

And the cows, thin in appearance and thin in flesh, ate the seven fat cows of good appearance. And the pharaoh woke up. And he fell asleep again, and he dreamed another dream: seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk.

Then seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them. The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. And Pharaoh woke up and realized that it was a dream.

In the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called all the magicians of Egypt and all his wise men, and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was no one to interpret it to Pharaoh. And the chief butler began to speak to Pharaoh and said: “I remember my sins today.

The pharaoh was angry with his servants and gave me and the chief baker into custody in the house of the head of the bodyguards. And we had a dream on the same night, me and him, each had a dream of special significance.

There was also a young Jew with us, a slave of the head of the bodyguards. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted each of us according to his dream. And as he interpreted to us, so it came true: I returned to my place, but the baker was hanged.

Pharaoh sent and called Joseph. He was hurried out of the dungeon. He shaved and changed his clothes and went to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh told Joseph both dreams and said, “I told all my magicians and wise men, but they could not interpret my dreams for me. And I heard about you that you can interpret. I beg you, tell me the meaning these dreams."

Joseph says, "Whatever the Lord plans to do, he warned Pharaoh about it." And Joseph said, "The seven good cows and the seven good ears of grain are the seven years of abundance. Seven skinny cows and seven skinny ears are seven years hunger.

Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt. Then, there will be seven years of famine. Therefore, let Pharaoh provide for a wise and prudent man, and set him over the land of Egypt. And let all these seven years gather a fifth of the land of Egypt. And that will be food for those seven years of famine.

Pharaoh was very pleased with the wisdom of Joseph, and he made him the head of his country. And he took off his ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand. He dressed him in fine linen and placed a golden chain around his neck.

He ordered to take him to the second of his chariots and proclaim before him: "Kneel!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

That's when Potiphar's wife got really scared. She realized that Joseph could now avenge her for all the suffering that he had to endure.

But the wisdom of Joseph did not allow him to avenge himself. He left God to deal with her Himself. Now Joseph understood why God led him this way. He was just now remembering the dreams that God had shown him as a teenager.

He also realized that it was time to meet with the brothers. He was very worried and missed his home; he wondered if his father and his brother Benjamin were still alive, so he expected the fulfillment of his dreams.

Joseph was thirty years old when he became the ruler of such a vast country, and when the brothers sold him, he was seventeen years old. The Lord spent thirteen years training Joseph and preparing him to fulfill His plans.

Joseph ruled the country wisely. He collected so much grain in seven harvest years that he even lost count. But now all seven years of abundance have passed, and seven years of famine have come.

During this time, Joseph got married and had two sons. He named the first-born Manasseh, because he said: God gave me to forget all my misfortunes and all my father's house.

To the second he named Ephraim, because he said: God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.

Chapter 11

MEETING THE TRAITORS

Seven years of great harvest have passed in Egypt. And the years came when God did not give rain on the earth, moreover, there was no rain not only in Egypt, but throughout the whole earth.

Why didn't God give rain to all the earth? He needed to relocate Jacob from Canaan to Egypt, and so He did as He had warned Joseph many years before that time. During the first two years of the drought, people lived on the supplies that they had collected earlier in the years of the big harvest. But the time has come supplies ran out, and famine intensified throughout the land.

The Egyptians turned to the pharaoh: “give us bread so that we do not die of hunger.” Pharaoh sent them to Joseph. Joseph opened the granaries filled with grain and began to sell bread and gave the profit to the Pharaoh's treasury.

At this time, Jacob learned that there was bread in Egypt. He gathered all ten sons and said, "Go and buy us some bread so that we won’t starve to death." They packed up and went to Egypt to buy bread.

They came to Joseph, bowed to him, and told him why they came. Joseph matured over the years, and since he spoke to them through an interpreter, naturally, they did not recognize him. But Joseph immediately recognized his brothers, who had sold him into slavery.

He remembered how he begged them not to sell him. He remembered how he loved them, he also remembered the dreams he had, which made his brothers hate him. But only ten of his brothers came to see him. He wanted to know if his father was alive and where his brother Benjamin was.

The wisdom that God gave Joseph was great, and he decided to use it. With other customers, he did not behave in the same way as with his brothers. He wanted to know if their lives had changed over the years.

Through an interpreter, he sternly told them: “You are spies; you have come to see where our weaknesses are." They began to justify themselves: “No, our lord,” they called him master. “Your servants have come to buy food. We are all children of the same father; we are honest people.

They want to convince him that they are very good people, as if Joseph does not know who they really are. "Your servants have never been spies." Now they are already calling themselves his slaves!

He told them: “No! You have come to find out what our weaknesses are.” They said: “No, we, your servants, are twelve brothers; we are the sons of one father, and we are from the land of Canaan, and behold, the least is now with our father, and one is gone."

That is, they did not admit that they sold him into slavery. Here, too, they tell lies and want to prove that they are honest people. However, Joseph knows what they really are, but they do not know about it.

Joseph had one goal - to find out if his father and his brother were alive. Through all these questions Joseph learns that his father and his maternal brother are alive.

“This is how you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you will not leave here unless your younger brother comes here. Send one of you and let him bring your brother; and you will be arrested. And the truth will be revealed."

He put them into custody for three days. Then he brought them out and said: “This is what you do, and you will stay alive; for I fear God." Since they were not very faithful to God, they did not pay attention to the words he said that he was afraid of God.

He says: “If you are honest people, then let one brother be kept in the house where you are imprisoned; and you go and bring bread for the sake of the famine of your families. Bring your younger brother to me, that your words may be justified, and that you may not die.”

Then they said to each other: “It is as if we are being punished for sin against our brother; we saw the suffering of his soul when he begged us but did not listen; this is why this grief befell us.”

Reuben answered them and said: “Didn't I tell you, don't sin against the lad, but you didn't listen; behold, his blood is exacted from us.” They didn’t know that Joseph understands them because he spoke to them through an interpreter. Thus, Joseph found out who wanted to save him.

He left them and wept. A little later he returned, took Simeon and bound him before their eyes, and brought him back into prison; the one in which he had once been. Then he said to the slaves: "Fill their sacks with bread, and return silver to each in his sack, and give them provisions for the journey."

And so, it was done. The brothers put the sacks of grain on their donkeys and left. After a while they stopped to feed the animals.

One of them untied the bag, and it turned out that there was silver with which he paid for grain! He told the brothers about this, and their hearts were troubled, and they said to each other: “What has God done to us?”

Here they remembered God! But they did not put the pieces together and did not realize why this man needs their father and their brother. How much Satan has corrupted the minds of these men!

They came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told everything that had happened to them. And they said that the man demanded that we would not come to him if our brother is not with us. The father became very angry: “Why did you tell him that you have a brother?”

They told their father, “He asked us if we had a father and a brother. We answered his questions. We didn't think he would force us to bring Benjamin to him. The father also did not understand why a stranger, from a foreign country, needed his younger son. When they began to unload the bread brought from Egypt, all as one found their silver in their bags. They got very scared.

With bitterness, the father said: “You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is gone, and Simeon; and you want to take Benjamin - all this is on me!

But while there was bread, they did not think about anything. However, the famine continued; soon the bread brought by them came to an end. Joseph was sure that they would have nowhere to go - because he knew that there would be another five years of famine - and they would return and bring his brother Benjamin, and to take away Simeon.

The first worship, which he once saw in a dream, he does not yet count fulfilled, since not all the brothers came to him. Therefore, soon there will be a fulfillment of the first dream - this is for the brothers, but not for Joseph.

Chapter 12

MEETING THE BROTHERS

Time passed, and Jacob gathered his sons and ordered them again to go to Egypt for bread. But the sons said: “We cannot go, because the head of that country said not to appear before his eyes unless our brother Benjamin is with us.”

The father was very afraid of losing his only son from his beloved wife. But he felt sorry for Simeon, he wanted to return him home. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, says, "Let the brother go under my responsibility, and I will bring him back home."

How he wanted to earn his father's forgiveness! He sinned greatly against his father by sleeping with the maid Bilhah, whom Rachel gave to her husband, to have children by her. He defiled his father's bed.

Poor Bilhah! She didn't want to become a harlot. Reuben could not marry her, and Jacob could no longer live with her. So, one thoughtless act deprived her of a good life. Yes, Reuben did not just do this, he clearly understood that after this, his father would not live with this unfortunate woman.

Thus, he took revenge on him for his unloved mother Leah. However, he did not think that he would lose his father's blessing, and this suggests that his entire family would not be blessed. He tried to earn his father's forgiveness, and therefore he wanted to save Joseph, and now he promises to save Benjamin.

But his father no longer trusts him, knowing the real reason why he did this to him, and was afraid that he would bring more trouble.

Seeing that the father did not agree to entrust Benjamin to Reuben, Judah, knowing that he was also guilty before his father, decided to atone for his guilt, since it was he who

offered to sell Joseph, although the father did not yet know about the true reason for Judas' act. Judas says to his father: “Let Benjamin go under my responsibility. If I do not bring him back, then I will remain guilty before you for life. The father thought and decided to entrust the life of his son to Judah.

Judah said to Israel his father: “Let the boy go with me; and we will rise and go, and we will live and not die; us, and you, and our children. If we had not hesitated, we would have already gone twice.”

Israel their father said to them: “If so, then do this: take with you the fruits of this land and bring as a gift to that man some balm and some honey and almonds. Take also other silver into your hands; and the silver put back into the opening of your sacks, return with your hands; maybe it's an oversight. And take your brother and get up and go again to that man.

May the Almighty God will grant you to find mercy in the man so that he will let you go and your other brother and Benjamin, and if I be childless, then let me be childless.

It is surprising that Jacob also did not consider why that man needs his youngest son. He also did not remember the dream that Joseph told him.

And the brethren arose and went into Egypt and stood before the face of Joseph. Joseph, seeing Benjamin among them, said to the ruler of his house: “Bring these people into the house, and slaughter something from the cattle, and prepare a meal, because at noon these people will eat with me.

That man did as Joseph said, he brought them to Joseph's house. Oh, how scared they were! They thought that because of the silver they found in their sacks now the Egyptians wanted attack us and take us as slaves and our donkeys.

And they approached the head of the house of Joseph and began to say to him at the door of the house: “We have already come before to buy food. And it happened that we found our silver in our bags. We are returning it back, and for the purchase we brought more silver.”

How much they wanted to prove that they are honest people!

The chief said: “Be calm, do not be afraid; Your God and the God of your father has given you a treasure in your sacks; your silver has reached me." He brought Simeon to them. Then he brought them all to the house of Joseph, and gave water, and they washed their feet; and fed donkeys.

The brethren prepared gifts for the coming of Joseph at noon; because they heard that they would eat bread there. And again, they did not realize for what merits will they eat together with the head of this country?

Joseph came home; and they brought gifts to his house that were in their hands and bowed down to the ground to him. This is the worship from Joseph's dream, all eleven brothers bowed to him.

He asked them about their health and said: “Is your father, the elder, about whom you spoke, healthy? Is he still alive?” They said: “Your servant, our father, is healthy; still alive,” and they bowed, and bowed again.

At that moment, Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, the son of his mother, and said: “Is this your younger brother, about whom you spoke to me?” Then he added: "God's mercy be with you, my son." Again, the brothers paid no heed to his words. Suddenly, Joseph

hurried away, because love for his brother boiled up in him, and he was ready to cry; he went into the inner room and wept there.

Then he washed his face and returned. Controlling himself, he said: "Serve food!" They gave it to him separately, and to them separately, and to the Egyptians who dined with them, especially; because Egyptians can't eat with Jews, it's an abomination to them.

The brothers were seated in order, from oldest to youngest. And they marveled at each other. Food was sent to them from Joseph, and Benjamin's share was five times the share of each of them.

They ate and drank, and they drank enough with him.

Even at that moment, they did not think why Benjamin was given so much attention. They never guessed that in front of them was their brother, whom they had sold. Such an evil spirit clouded their minds that they could not understand anything.

In this situation, God did not allow them to understand, for fulfillment of His plans.

Joseph ordered the head of his house: “Fill the bags of these people with food, as much as they can carry, and put each silver in the hole of his bag. And put my silver cup in the hole of the sack to the youngest, along with silver for the bread he bought.

He did as Joseph commanded. In the morning, when dawn broke, these people were released, them and their donkeys.

They were still not far from the city, when Joseph said to the head of his house: “Go, catch up with these people, and when you catch up, tell them why did you pay evil for good? Is this not the cup from which my master drinks? And it is his cup of divination.

You did wrong." He caught up with them and spoke these words to them. They said to him: “Why does our lord say such words? No, your servants would not do such a thing.

Behold, the silver that we found in the opening of our sacks, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan, how can we steal silver or gold from your master's house? Whichever of your servants is found with it, he should die; and we shall be slaves to our master.”

He said, “Good; be it as you said; whoever has a cup will be my slave, and you will be free.” It is interesting that this person confirms their words. But he cancels the word "death" uttered by them, and leaves slavery.

They hurriedly lowered their sacks to the ground, and he began to search from oldest to youngest. And - alas! the cup was found in Benjamin's sack... They were frightened! They tore their clothes and, each one placing his load on the donkey, returned to the city.

It was not for nothing that Joseph dined with them in his house, so that he would have a reason to later accuse them of “theft.” This is how Joseph disciplined his brothers, so that they understand how bad it is to deceive someone.

Every untruth is a great sin. Because Satan deceived Eve, God had to drive Adam and Eve out of paradise. In a person's life, deceit is considered the greatest sin before God, for which He severely punishes a person.

God gave wisdom to Joseph to bring his brothers back to a righteous way, so that they would live in the fear of God.

Chapter 13

JOSEPH

Joseph knew that the brothers would return, so he stayed at home. He waited for their arrival, and as soon as the brothers appeared before him, they again fell bowing to the ground.

Joseph sternly said to them: “What have you done? Didn't you know that a man like me would surely do divination?" Judas said, "What shall we say to our master?" They call him Master. What should I say? How can I justify?

“God found the iniquity of your servants (at last they understood that iniquity is punished by God); behold, we are servants of our master; both we and the one in whose hands the cup was found.” But Joseph said, “No, the one in whose hands the cup was found will be my slave, and you go in peace to your father.”

How hard it was for him to endure all this time not to confess who he really is!

And Judah came up to him and said: “My lord, let your servant speak a word in the ears of my lord, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are the same as Pharaoh. My master asked his servants, saying: Do you have a father or a brother? We told the truth that there is a father and a brother.

You said to bring our little brother. When we told our father, he did not agree, as he is the only son of his old age. And he said: if something happens to the lad, I will die. When we were about to go to Egypt for food, our father did not agree to let the boy go.

We said that we could not appear before your eyes unless our brother is with us. Then I said to my father: let the boy go under my responsibility, and I will bring him back. Therefore, I ask my master, let the boy go along with his brothers, and I will remain a slave to you instead of him.

How can I go to my father if the boy is not with me? I would rather not see the calamity that would befall my father.”

Joseph could no longer hold back in front of everyone standing around him, and he shouted: “Remove everyone from me!” And everyone left quickly.

How frightened everyone was when he screamed like that! Then he wept so loudly that all the Egyptians in the court heard it. And he said, “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold as a slave. Tell me, is my father still alive?

But his brothers could not answer him, because they were astounded before him. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come to me."

They approached. And he said again: “I am Joseph, your brother. Do not grieve and do not regret that you sold me here, because God sent me before you to save your life.”

“So, you it was not you who sent me here, but God, who made me a father to Pharaoh and lord over all his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Go quickly to my father and tell him thus says your son Joseph: God has made me lord over all Egypt; come to me, do not hesitate.

You will live in the land of Goshen, and you will be near me: you and your sons, and your sons' sons, and your flocks and cattle, and all yours. And I will feed you there,

because the famine will be five more years; lest you become poor, and your house, and all yours.

You see with your own eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that I am talking to you. Tell your father about all my fame and bring your father here quickly."

And Joseph embraced Benjamin his brother, and they both wept. Then he kissed all his brothers, and weeping, embraced them.

Word came to Pharaoh's house that Joseph's brothers had come; and it was pleasing to Pharaoh and his servants.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, this is what you should do: load your livestock with bread and go into the land of Canaan. Take your father and your families and come to me; I will give you the best in the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the earth.”

Joseph gave his brothers good chariots and food for the journey, so that the brothers could bring their father to him in the land of Egypt. He released his brothers, and they went. Finally, when they were leaving, he said to them, "Go home and don't quarrel on the road." Oh, how well Joseph knew his brothers!

Finally, the truth is revealed, and Benjamin learned how his own brother had disappeared. How bad it was in the soul of the brothers when they realized that now the father would know the whole truth, and how much grief they brought him.

Their deception was revealed. There is nothing hidden that would not be revealed.

Chapter 14

GOOD NEWS

The brothers returned from Egypt and said to their father: "Your son Joseph lives and now rules over all the land of Egypt." But his heart was troubled because he did not believe them. He knew they often deceived him.

When they told him all the words of Joseph that he spoke to them, and when he saw the chariots that Joseph had sent to carry him, then the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

And Israel said, “Enough, my son Joseph is still alive; I will go and see him before I die.” Israel went with all they had and came to Beer-sheba and offered sacrifices to the God of their father Isaac.

Jacob set out from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel brought their father Jacob and their children and their wives in chariots that Pharaoh sent to bring him. Jacob left his native land with all his sons and grandsons and went to Egypt to his beloved son Joseph.

Now his heart rejoiced that his beloved son was alive and that he would see him again! Immediately he was rejuvenated. His joy knew no bounds.

That's what good news means in a person's life! Finally, Jacob regained his beloved son, lost many years ago. But the most important thing in this family is that Joseph managed to forgive his brothers, and for this God blessed his life in a foreign country. It was a victory over sin, over deceit, and the spirit of deceit had no power over Joseph.

How wonderful it is when a person wins in the spiritual life! After all, there is a struggle in the spiritual life as well as in the earthly one.

Therefore, God rejoices when His creation overcomes sin, as He Himself conquered sin on the cross of Calvary. And He rejoices even more when a person created by Him, remains faithful and devoted to Him until eternity.

Chapter 15

THE MEETING OF FATHER AND SON

The way for the entire family of Israel was a long one. How the earth has changed now! A few years ago, all nature rejoiced with magnificent beauty, and now heat, drought...

Everything has dried up on the horizon, not a drop of rain fell from the sky. The trees withered, the grass all died and turned into straw, not a flower anywhere, only the wind that raised suffocating yellow dust and rolls clubs of dry thorns over the cracked earth.

Animals rush about in search of water and food, and how many of them have already died. All God's creation cries out to God, asking for mercy on them. Yes, the whole earth and everything that is on this planet suffers because of the sin of man.

But God has a plan to save not only man, but all His creation.

A huge caravan, having traveled many days, is approaching the promised land. Jacob sends Judah ahead to inform Joseph of his imminent arrival, along with his entire extended family. Joseph harnessed his chariot and rode out to meet his father.

Oh, what meeting it was! How many joyful tears were shed!

And Israel said to Joseph: "Now I can die in peace as I see your face, because you are still alive." And Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's house, "I will go and inform Pharaoh and say to him, my brothers and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, have come to me."

When Pharaoh heard about the arrival of the family of Joseph's father, he said: "Settle them on the best land." Joseph brought Jacob his father and presented him to Pharaoh; And Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Joseph carried out the Pharaoh's command and settled the whole house of his father in the land of Goshen. He provided bread for his father and his brothers, and all his father's house, according to the needs of each family. So, Jacob lived in the land of Egypt for seventeen years.

And the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were one hundred and forty and seven years. And now the time has come for Jacob to leave this life and pass into eternity.

Jacob called his son Joseph and said to him: “If I have gained favor with you, promise that you will not bury me in Egypt; so that I may lie with my fathers, you will carry me out of Egypt and bury me in the tomb of my ancestors.” Joseph said, "I will do according to your word."

Jacob blessed Joseph's children. He put Ephraim in the place of the elder Manasseh. It had already happened before that Isaac blessed Jacob and gave him an advantage over his brother Esau.

Jacob blessed Joseph and gave him preference over his brothers. And he gave precedence to the younger son of Joseph over the elder Manasseh. Jacob also blessed all his sons.

Joseph fulfilled all the commands of his father and buried him in the tomb of his ancestors his.

When the brothers saw that their father had left the earth, they were very afraid. They did not forget what they had done to Joseph and said, “What if Joseph hates us and wants to avenge us for all the wrong we have done to him?”

When they did their evil, they did not think about the consequences, and now they were afraid for their lives, they did not want to be punished. And again, they used deception.

The spirit of deceit continued to dwell in their lives.

Here's what they came up with. They sent to Joseph to say: “Your father, before his death, commanded, saying, so tell Joseph: forgive your brothers their guilt and their sin, because they did you evil. And now forgive the guilt of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they told him this. The brothers did not think that the father himself could tell Joseph to forgive his brothers. In fact, the father already understood that Joseph forgave his brothers, otherwise he would have punished them at the very beginning.

However, the brothers did not believe Joseph when he told them that God was pleased to send him to Egypt to save their lives.

Now his brethren themselves came and fell before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants." Joseph said, "Don't be afraid, for I am afraid of God." So, he reassured them, and they realized that he was much better than themselves.

Joseph was afraid of God, and therefore He chose him to be the ruler of such a huge country as Egypt.

Chapter 16

CONCLUSION

From the life story of this family, we see how our words and deeds affect our lives and what consequences they entail.

Isaac deceived the king and almost lost his wife. Jacob deceived Isaac once, to get a blessing that belonged to his brother Esau - and almost lost his life, if he did not run away from his brother. Upon arrival to his uncle, Jacob himself was immediately deceived by him.

In this family, he was deceived twelve times. Subsequently, the sons of Jacob deceived him twice. Total 12 + 2 = 14 times that we were able to count, because of deception in this family. Aren't there too many punishments for Jacob's one deceit?

That is, we see how many times more we get back for one wrong deed. We also see how the words are fulfilled in relation to the word about death.

Every word is a seed, and in the spirit world it bears fruit.

Rachel died because she herself predicted her own death. Now we see how many times for one DECEPTION Jacob himself was DECEIVED.

We have seen how many times Joseph was deceived by the brothers, and what befell them. Joseph's brothers did not want to bow to him once. They then had to bow before him four times. Jacob had to bow before his brother seven times to be forgiven.

When the disciples asked Christ how many times to forgive a brother, seven times? Christ said to them, I do not say to you, up to seven, but up to seventy times seven. 7 times 70 = 490 times. If your brother repents and asks for your forgiveness, forgive him.

In this story we see that Joseph forgave his brothers without waiting for them to ask forgiveness. His brothers tried to live in deceit until the last moment. The spirit of DECEPTION did not leave them, because they never repented of their sins.

Now we see how corrupted a person is in this life. The only thing we can rely on to fix our lives is Christ alone. Only He can cleanse us from sin and make us the way God created us from the very beginning of the creation of this universe.

If a person knew how much our words cripple our lives, he, before saying or doing a bad deed, would think about the consequences in his own life. It was not just that Satan DECEIVED Eve in paradise, but he did so he could deceitfully kill a person and all creation of God. Beware of DECEIVING and killing other people.

Hate is the worst sin. A person who is friends with hatred will never inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. That is why Christ said: Forgive and you will be forgiven.

May all those who read this book be blessed by Christ.

Lika (this is her pseudonym) Tsurkan was born in a Greek Orthodox family, but God had a special plan for this family.

Soon God led her father and mother to the true faith in the living God, so Lika grew up in a Christian family. God chose her from birth to fulfill His plans and from childhood He taught her wisdom.

She graduated from college as a missionary. When she began to study the Scriptures deeply, she was surprised to find that in the Bible God wrote the life story of every person. It also says how long someone will live and where they will spend eternity.

In this book you will learn that a person's life depends on his actions and spoken words. The Lord said, "By your words you will be condemned, and by your words you will be justified."

The Consequences of deception

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